Reading Thyme Heard

...ll On The Floss, hadno

Text. Heb.2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them.

Intro. The idea of drifting runs thru the Bible. "falling away", settling on the lees", backsliding", "apostacy". But nowhere more definitely used than in our text.

The Jewish Xns Inclined to drift back to Judaism. They missed their assiciation with synagogue and temple and felt cut off from a religious inheritance that had beeen rich indeed. The very scriptures that had come down to them from Moses and the prophets seemed to have passed out of their possession. Most of all the Law which had governed their conduct in the minutest detail no longer had athority. Secretly disappointed and discontented they ~~secret~~ unconsciously drifted toward the old religious way. The whole of the Epistle to the Hebrews is to prove to these Jewish Xns that in Christ they had lost nothing but gained much.

I. This subject of Drifting is a modern one, very applicable to our present situation. We have enterdd into a larger inheritance; we have Abraham and Moses and the Prophets and Christ, but more, we have 2000 yrs of Xn experience, a knowledge of the other great religions of the world, a new world of science, and an acquaintance with the world of humanity such as no other generation has had.

1. It is an imperceptible movement toward aimlessness. The movement of a boat being carried down a seeming ly placid stream. Of a vessel that has slipt its anchorage.

In the moral drift there is little evidence of forsaking God or Dhrist, but a gradual surredner to the conditions that surround us.

The sources of our drifting may come from afar, from remote ancestors, from old habits and fixed custs of long ago, from surrounding personalities: theise all cause us to drift imperceptibly until we find ourselves caught in the strong currest of an onrushing stream.

Maggie Tulliver, in The Mill On The Floss, hadno

popular mind. Popular use of Psychology and other sciences.

3. A drifting away from Christ.
   a. Universal toleration.
   b. The difficulty of living the Xn life.
      The War has created a demand for sincerity and truth of living.
      In the light of this demand much of our so-called Xn living does not measure up well. Rather than to appear hypocritical many abandon all pretense of following Christ.

III. How Can We stpp Drifting?

Surely there is a way. God's plan of salvation has not been exhausted.

Given room to live, the Christian life is as easy to live as any other. But it must have room and the proper conditions for living. Every Xn can keep himself alive in Christ if he is a mind to. No Xn need to abandon the love of God that is in Christ. There are certain ways by which we can maintain ourselves as alive in Christ.

1. The way of Rest. Some people have an idea that that rest is something you take because you are tired out. The true way to rest is to go to sleep with the idea that you thus prepare for the work of tomorrow, for the further expenditure of your energy upon the task that is yours to perform. And so, by faith a Xn enters into his rest, he puts himself into the Redeemer's hands anew every day, and there comes to him the refreshment of spirit and renewal of strength that enables him to live true for the day.

2.

2. The way of sustenance. The body needs food. And so does the soul. The soul needs to feed upon the Word of God, comphrensively.
   1. The Bible. Taken in parts and regularly
   2. The other recorrs of man. History. Literature, art, science.
   3. The personalities of fellows.

of withching away the heart of Stephen Guest from her cousin. She found herself without premeditatin in the boat with her cousin's lover. His charming personality cast a spell over her and then they just sat there in the boat and the drifting did the test.

2. This drifting is always downward. Yielding to influences and impulses, to popular opinion, ill-informed and half-baked literature, or to mere indolence carries us from the higher reaches of the spirit down to the lower levels of conformity and compromise.

Movement toward formal worship in the East. Icebergs floating toward the sunny south. The warmth of southern clime melts them away. The influences and attractions towards which we drift finally melt away within us those grips upon the great spiritual verities which our religion has given to us. A marked example that of the boy entering high school.

3. Drifting is often doing nothing. We hold to our spiritual inheritance but do not use it. We accumulate a fortune but do not invest it. We halt between two opinions but take no side and do nothing. We put forth no new effort to make further progress. We halt and settle down, which is drifting.

II.

II. Influences that corrupt Xns today.

The corruption of the best is the worst form of corruption. The rottinga way of a poor apple is not much, but let a very choice apple rot and it is a loss. There is a type of man, a low unmoral creature whose rottenness does not affect so society so much. But let the highest type of man become corrupted and society suffers. Cns are the highest type member of society and the influenc of Ens is the most valuable to society. Let Xns bedom corrupted and society suffers immeasurably.

1. The idea that the authority of the Bible has been destroyed.

2. The influence of physical science upon the secul

3. The way of service. No division lf service into sacred and secular. All helpful service is as unto Christ.

4. The way of prayer. What the breath is to the body prayer is to the spiritual life. The one is as unconscious and as involuntary as the other. Stop breathing and you die. Stop prayog and you drift toward spiritual death just as certainly.

Conc. In these days when drifting is so prevalent and easy, it behooves us, in the light of our text, to give the more earnest heed, to push ahead with steadfast purpose, lest haply we drift away from Christ and God.